11.—Development Work in the Coming Years.

72. I have reviewed the routine work of the administration and also referred to all the more outstanding questions of public interest which received attention during the past year. I will now briefly invite your attention to the existing circumstances of the country and to the reforms and developments demanded by the rapidly changing conditions of the present time.

73. In previous Addresses, particularly last year's, I drew attention to the low earning power, low standard of living and low ideals of aspiration and effort, which are such an unsatisfactory feature of the economic and social life of this country.

It is only by comparative study, by making an inventory of our resources in materials and men, that we shall know where we stand and realise our deficiencies. I am never tired of quoting statistics to show the relative position of our people economically, as compared with more progressive nations. I trust you will bear with me if I place before you a tabular statement giving this comparison.

No.	Main heads of progress	In advanced countries	In Mysore	Standard to aim at in Mysore in the near future
1	Percentage of literates to total population.	Over 80	8	60
2	Percentage of pupils at school to total population.	United Kingdom ... 20 Canada ... 20 Australia ... 14·7 Japan ... 14·8	4	10
3	Production from agriculture—Value per head of population.	Rs. Canada ... 342 Australia (including pastoral, dairying). 372	Rs. 24	Rs. 45
4	Annual income per head of population.	United Kingdom ... 720 Canada ... 555 Australia ... 495	31	60
5	Estimated wealth per head of population.	United Kingdom ... 6,000 France ... 4,875 Italy ... 1,986 Canada ... 4,440 Australia ... 3,960 Japan ... 1,087	264	500
6	Total revenue per head of population.	United Kingdom ... 62 Canada ... 50 Australia ... 66 Japan ... 18	5	10
7	Savings Bank deposits per head of population.	Canada ... 40 Australia ... 252 United States of America. 1,317	1	10
8	Total trade per head of population.	United Kingdom ... 386 France ... 232 Italy ... 106 Canada ... 480 Australia ... 495 Japan ... 40	26	50

74. I have given in the last column of the table certain modest figures, under each head, to serve as standards to aim at in the near future. I call them standards with a view to place concrete ideals in some form before you but it is open to the leading public men of the country to suggest alternative standards after carrying out the necessary investigations themselves. Till then, perhaps, these figures might be allowed to stand.

The table shows how poor the country is in all that the world prizes as material wealth. It shows too that, in point of capacity and skill, or what economists would call 'personal wealth', the country is woefully deficient.

We know very clearly that lack of education, of science, of world knowledge, is answerable for the present condition of our people.

Priding as we do on our ancient civilization and past traditions, it hurts us no doubt to be told that we are very low in the scale of nations in point of capacity and prosperity. But the best proof we can give that we realise our position is to make an energetic effort to develop the country at least to the level of the standard figures indicated in the table.

Developments in Administration.

75. The work before the country may be divided into three main heads, *viz.*, (1) developments in administration, (2) economic development, and (3) development of civic and social life. I will first deal with reforms in the sphere of public administration.

76. Improvements in the system of work in Government departments are receiving attention. I have already referred to the work of the Efficiency Audit Branch in the Secretariat which consists of a small staff whose duty, among other things, is to systematise the work of all departments and to help to correct anomalies and irregularities.

An attempt is being made, under what is known as organization and development work, to bring under investigation, with a view to ultimate practical action where necessary, the more important defects and needs of each department in the order of their urgency and importance.

In connection with Government departments and offices, a system of surprise inspections is contemplated

so that the work done may be seen in its normal condition and not as it is made up on receipt of notice of inspection.

77. Improvements are being effected in the *personnel* of the service. We have many capable officers and the general level of integrity is high. But their efficiency might be further improved if European business habits became more common among them and if the officers exercised more power of initiative and imbibed stricter habits of discipline.

In some of the departments, a beginning has been made to train officers to make original investigations and to specialise in the technical subjects connected with their duties. To broaden the outlook of officers, facilities are being afforded to encourage foreign travel.

78. There is an enormous increase of work in the Government departments, especially in connection with the expansion of railways, extension of Cauvery Irrigation Works, enlargement of the hydro-electric scheme, development of forest and mineral resources, new industries, improvement of tanks, etc. These have brought on new responsibilities on Government which they will be ill-prepared to discharge without a more efficient system of work, without additional establishment and greater public co-operation.

79. Referring to the co-operation of the public, the late Dewan, Mr. Rangacharlu, in his Dasara Address of 1882, spoke of the 'crushing influence of officialdom' which, according to him, kept the population ignorant and denied it any power of initiative. Things have changed now and it is beginning to be recognised that one of the essential duties of every Government officer in a responsible position is to train the people, to make them more and more self reliant and enlist their co-operation in public work. It is important that the people should be emancipated from the habit of petitioning Government for every small want and every petty grievance. The truism bears repetition that the efficiency of an administration depends, in the last resort, on the energy, capacity and vigilance of the people.

Economic Development.

80. In the field of economic development, some substantial work, in the way of training the people and associating them in public work with Government officers

has been begun through the agency of the Economic Conference and its committees. As our organization is improving in efficiency from year to year, my reference to developments under this head need only be very brief.

81. In respect of education, we look forward to further rapid expansion of primary education and to enlisting more public support for educating the adult population in the districts. Technical education also wants a great deal more attention than we have been able to give it hitherto. The work of the University recently started has to be consolidated. The extension and publication work has to be vigorously pushed through. It is pleasing to notice the keen interest which many leading men, both Europeans and Indians, are taking in developing the work of the new University.

82. Under agriculture, intensive cultivation, closer association between agriculture and science and development of rural industries have to be encouraged. The cultivators should be given an insight into modern conditions of business and encouraged to practise forethought and thrift. Agricultural credit must be more systematically organised.

83. Under industries and commerce, money has to be spent liberally to train the people and to give them financial and other help till they are better able to look after themselves. A few large industries will be pioneered by Government. The prosecution of smaller industries by co-operative effort, by partnership or joint stock enterprise, should be specially encouraged.

Development of Civic and Social Life.

84. The principal civic and social activities requiring attention may be considered to fall under the following heads :—

(1) Public and municipal administration and social service.
(2) Social elevation.
(2) Science, literature, art, religion, morals.
(4) Raising standards of business conduct, thoroughness and finish in practical life.

85. A central committee for Bangalore or Mysore and at least one person for each town might be entrusted with the responsibility of developing each of these activities. In the work of investigation and enquiry, the

duties of the central committee should be to maintain lists of leading workers interested in the subject, to gather and spread information, to collect funds, appoint lecturers, convene meetings and conferences, issue leaflets and publish a consolidated report of progress at the end of each year.

86. The general public should be encouraged to make a serious study of public and municipal administration. The duties of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council are growing. A revised scheme of local self Government is expected to issue in a few weeks. A system of conferences has been inaugurated in the districts, taluks and even *hoblis* to ascertain the wants and wishes of the people and enlist their co-operation in public work.

We are now utilising the services of the rural population in a small way in village improvement work and in connection with minor tanks, water supply and other local works. The co-operation which the village people have shown is very creditable to their sense of public spirit; and, with a proper organization, many useful works can be carried out to promote public convenience and material prosperity in rural areas.

87. I referred to the necessity of civic and social progress in the Dasara Address of 1914 and I refer to it again here as part of a complete scheme of development work for the State. The subject of civic and social duties does not of course fall within the sphere of public administration. The work has to be done by the people themselves.

Work of Investigation.

88. All these subjects which affect the prosperity and enlightenment of the country must come under investigation and enquiry by a few enthusiasts at first and a wider circle of workers afterwards.

The number of subjects which come under the domain of investigation is very vast. All persons competent and willing to co-operate should have work assigned to them according to their capacity and aptitude and be kept thinking and working.

Investigation will gradually bring to light the defects which require remedy, improvements which demand attention and opportunities which can be availed of with profit.

These proposals in effect amount to a scheme of research, on a small scale, into all the principal activities of civilized life. If people are kept thinking, investigating and working on any subject, standards and ideals will be gradually evolved, leading ultimately to decisions and practical action.

12.—Conclusion.

89. A great economic change is impending in the world in consequence of the war and it is certain that industrial and trade competition will be very much keener after its close. It is stated, with authority, that His Majesty's Government are considering the outlines and the basis of a post-war policy, both social and industrial, and that a State scheme of assistance to scientific and industrial research is in course of creation. Our late Viceroy, Lord Curzon, recently stated that 'to meet the situation, new schemes, new plans, new policies will have to be devised and a new adjustment will be called for of many of the basic principles upon which public life has hitherto rested.' The same spirit is evinced in France, in Australia and in Canada.

90. When nations so incomparably richer than ourselves, who already possess a connected scheme of national life, are thinking of reconstruction, are we—who have no prosperity at all worth mentioning—to sit still? Shall we remain content with our low standard of life and work, or, adopt a policy of development and progress? If the latter, are the standards I have indicated too ambitious in the present circumstances of the country, or, are they reasonable and practicable? If the answer to this question be also in the affirmative, you will agree that the present drift and traditional inaction should give place to a reasoned policy and a courageous initiative.

We must begin work at once with a changed outlook and new ideals. In these days of open-door, free communications, world competition, it would be unpardonable neglect on our part to omit to organise the resources and working power of our people in every walk of life.

M. VISVESVARAYA,
Dewan of Mysore.